

## Amusements and Meetings.

**BARNUM'S ROMAN HIPPODROME.**—Exhibition at 2:30 and 8:15. Amateur Athletic Club. Exhibition at 2:30 and 8:15. Niblo's Theatre. At 8: and at 11. "Tranboe." The Colosseum. London by Day and by Night, from 10 to 12. UNION SQUARE THEATRE. At 2 and at 8. "Peril."

**CENTRAL PARK GARDEN.**—Theodore Thomas's Summer Night's Concert. LEAVITT ART GALLERY. Fine Art Exhibition.

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## Business Notices.

**WHETHER YOU TRAVEL OR STAY AT HOME,** have General Accident Policy in the TRAVELERS of Hartford.

## SELF DEFENSE.

To a criminal record of preventive medicine may be ascribed a majority of the ailments which afflict humanity. It is a well ascertained fact, resting on the experience of twenty years, that a course of HORTON'S HYPODERMIC BUREAU will put even a naturally feeble system in such a state of defense that it will be competent to resist the most prevalent causes of disease, such as the malarial influence of miasms, unwholesome water, excess of heat, damp, cold, sudden changes of temperature, &c. Yet there are thousands of persons living in perpetual peril from one or more of these causes, who recklessly omit to avail themselves of the absolute protection which this famous vegetable antidote affords. Interminable and bilious remittent fevers, rheumatism, general debility, nervous weakness and irregularities of the stomach, bowels and liver, would be comparatively unknown if this palatable specific were in universal use in the districts where they principally prevail.

## TERMS OF THE TRIBUNE.

**DAILY TRIBUNE.** Mail Subscribers, \$10 per annum. **SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE.** Mail Subscribers, \$5 per annum. **WEEKLY TRIBUNE.** Mail Subscribers, \$2 per annum. **ADVERTISING RATES.** **DAILY TRIBUNE.** 25c, 50c, 10c, 50c, 75c, and \$1 per line. **SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE.** 25c and 50 cents per line. **WEEKLY TRIBUNE.** \$2, \$3, and \$5 per line. According to position in the paper. Terms, cash in advance. **ADDRESS.** THE TRIBUNE, New-York. All persons leaving New-York and travelers during the summer, can have THE DAILY TRIBUNE mailed to them for \$1, or including postage, for \$1.30 per month, the address of the paper being changed as often as is wished. The SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE will be sent to any address for three months for \$1, postage paid; and for \$1, exclusive of ocean postage, travelers abroad can have any of the editions of THE TRIBUNE mailed to their bankers for the following periods: Daily, for one month, SEMI-WEEKLY, three months, WEEKLY, six months. Advertisements received at up-town offices, 54, W. 23d-st., or 308 W. 23d-st.; at the Harlem Office, 2,386 Fourth-ave., between 125th and 130th-sts.; and at the Brooklyn Branch Office, 225 Washington-st., next door to the Post-office, till 8 p. m., at regular rates.

During the construction of the front of the new Tribune building, the Tribune Office will be found in the old building in the rear on Spruce-st. The Tribune Counting Room is on the first floor, and is entered at the second door down Spruce-st. from the old site.

## New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1874.

## TRIPLE SHEET.

In the British House of Lords the relations of Great Britain to the Brussels Congress were discussed. The Earl of Derby said that the British representative would not be empowered to consent to any new rules; he would simply watch and report the proceedings. The Count de Chambord has issued a manifesto in which he favors a limited monarchy in France, but rejects the formula that the King reigns but does not govern. Very favorable accounts of the condition in India are published.

Great destruction is prevailing in South-Western Minnesota, caused by the destruction of the crops by grasshoppers. Ex-Gov. Jewell of Connecticut, now Minister at St. Petersburg, has been appointed Postmaster-General, and the new District Columbia Commission assumed control of affairs yesterday.

Tammany threatened to call upon the Governor to remove the Mayor for reappointing Police Commissioner Charles and Gardner. Sixty dealers were indicted for selling liquor without licenses. The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher in his last Friday night talk before vacation, summed up his ministry. John P. Garrison read a paper on "Hydrophobia" before the Medical Library and Journal Association. Surrogate Hutchings refused to admit the will of Rollwagen, or the codicil, to probate. A brutal milkman assaulted and nearly killed an aged couple in Brooklyn. The Commissioners of Charities and Correction, reducing the salaries in their Department, and threaten to abolish some of the public institutions on the islands. Gold, 114, 114, 114. Thermometer, 72°, 82°, 60°.

Mr. Beecher's summing up of his experience and life-work, given in his last Friday evening prayer meeting talk yesterday, and elsewhere reported, will command wide attention.

The Count de Chambord has issued a manifesto in which his evident desire to secure the support of the Constitutional Monarchists is shown to conflict, in a remarkable manner, with his claim to rule by divine authority.

The National Association of Woolen Manufacturers express their reasons for opposing the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty in the resolutions printed elsewhere. Representing one of the great industries of the country, their statements are certain to receive an attentive hearing.

The Attorney-General is really very unkind. He refuses to allow District-Attorney Harrington to prosecute the burglars in the notorious safe burglary case. This, too, when there is every reason to believe that he knows more about the case than any other living man, not excepting the prisoners themselves. It is too bad, after a man has done so much as Mr. Harrington has to prepare this case, to keep him out of the trial of it.

Gov. Kemper's froll demonstration has called attention early to the present political situation in Virginia. The correspondent who explains, on the third page of this morning's TRIBUNE, the prospects in the several Congressional Districts of that State, is thoroughly informed, careful, and accurate. The

upshot of his investigation is a statement of the probability that the five Republicans and four Conservatives representing Virginia in the present Congress are likely to be succeeded by six Conservatives and four Republicans.

The ravages of grasshoppers in some of the counties in Minnesota have been so terribly destructive that all the crops have been swept away completely, as by fire. The destitution caused by this visitation is so widespread and complete that upon the testimony of trustworthy men who have traversed the devastated region Gov. Davis has issued a circular letter to the Granges of the State, asking their aid to relieve the distress. Assistance has not been asked outside the State, but contributions from any source, addressed to Gen. H. H. Sibley, at St. Paul, will be gratefully received and immediately used for the relief of the sufferers.

The new Commission for the government of the District of Columbia organized yesterday and made a good beginning in the work of overhauling the legacy of anarchy, extravagance and misrule left them by the Shepherd Administration. The results of the first day's investigation prove that the half of the misdoings of the old Ring has not been told. The manner in which the new Commission takes hold of its work promises well for a thorough reform in the District Government, to the relief of the burdened tax-payers and the satisfaction of the people of the whole country who have been disgraced by the scandals of the Ring.

The decision of Surrogate Hutchings setting aside the will and codicil of Frederick Rollwagen disposes of an estate of several millions of dollars. The case is remarkable not only for the amount involved but for the extraordinary length and bitterness of the litigation in the contest of the will. The evidence in the case fills many thousands of pages of manuscript, and the printed argument of Henry L. Clinton for the victorious contestants alone makes a volume of two hundred and fifty pages. The trial has extended over several months. The decision of the Surrogate virtually declares the will to have been manufactured and the infant claimant to have been a child of the deceiver.

There seems to be no end to the rascalities practiced under the short-lived government of Messrs. Shepherd & Co. in the District of Columbia. Fired by the example of their white brethren in higher station, two colored statesmen—one a member of the District Legislature, messenger in the Controller's office, and President of a Republican Club; the other a graduate of Howard University, and clerk in the office of the Collector of the District—undertook to turn a dishonest penny by forging orders on the Controller. The latter officer being opposed, we presume, to attacks upon the characters of faithful public officers, did not concern himself with discovering the forgers, and so the police took the business in hand and caught the offenders. Upon the whole that District Government was a rather interesting nest.

It will not surprise those who observed the extraordinary efforts which were required in some of the smaller colleges to place a crew at Springfield, that in several instances the boating fever passed its climax last year. But the views of those who expected that sooner or later the annual regatta would be sifted down to the old contest between Harvard and Yale will be somewhat modified by the letter of our correspondent on the third page, which shows good ground for believing that Cornell will, at all events, continue to be a permanent competitor for aquatic laurels. This year she too has sent a crew of remarkable physical power, including one man who is noticeable in this respect even among the young giants gathered at Saratoga. It seems probable, however, that an absurd system of overtraining is injuring this crew, and diminishing a prospect of success otherwise exceptionally excellent.

About four thousand of the liquor dealers of the city—that is, above one-half the whole number engaged in the retail traffic—are in open revolt against the Excise laws. A large and rich lobby in this interest vainly urged the last Legislature to reduce their license fees, and have taken the present step as a last effort to nullify the Excise law. The Excise Board in response have not sued the dealers, as they expected, but have quietly secured the indictment of sixty of the most active leaders in the revolt. If convicted of violating the Excise laws the guilty dealers may be fined \$250 and sent to Blackwell's Island for one year. The summary trial and punishment of a few of those indicted will doubtless bring the others to their senses. We hope the District Attorney will pursue the matter promptly. There are few outside of the 8,000 liquor dealers in the city who will not agree with us in saying that the fees for license are already too low, and the Excise law and police regulations concerning dram shops too lax.

The continuance of the Indian Commission, after the resignation of Messrs. Stuart, Dodge, and the other members who gave it character and the confidence of the country, is of course a feeble farce, modeled upon the continuance of the Civil Service Commission after its original Commissioners had discovered their limitations and necessary failure. With the best of men the new Indian Commission can no more do what was expected of it than the second Civil Service Commission did. The appointments at the best can only be a respectable way of covering a break down. At the worst, they may prove a means of concealing such practices in the Interior Department as may well make the latter end of the Indian problem worse than the first. Meantime those who think the view here taken of the Indian Commission too gloomy, will do well to consult the letter from the late clerk of the Board, which we print this morning on the fourth page. The Commissioners themselves have been little disposed to argue their case in the newspapers. The clerk has no such hesitation, and the facts he gives concerning the Department of the Interior, and the constant efforts to thwart the actions of the Commissioners, are the best possible comment on the appointment by the Secretary of the Interior of a new Commission to take the place of the one he drove away.

Tammany evidently means vigorous and indignant war on both the convicted Police Commissioners and the Mayor who has reappointed them. If the programme upon which the Democratic leaders yesterday resolved can be carried out, there will be lively times for the Governor, the Grand Jury, and the Courts. It embraces the suspension of the Mayor by the Governor, the reindictment of the Commis-

sioners by the General Sessions Grand Jury, and their immediate trial before Hackett or Sutherland. It looks at first like a big undertaking. But recalling the strong language of the Governor in reviewing the official felonies of Britton, whom he removed in spite of the great influence brought to save him, and the prompt and positive manner in which he acted in declaring vacant the offices of the convicted Commissioners in both Brooklyn and New-York, it will appear less unlikely than at first that Gov. Dix may continue, in the cases now brought up, the same resolute policy he has heretofore pursued. Of the wisdom of the movement resolved on by Tammany it is not possible just now to speak, but he mistakes the political situation and does not fully comprehend public feeling on the subject who thinks that its success is certainly impossible. Meantime, it will be observed, that the Police Board does not get reorganized. Messrs. Disbecker and Durryce balance Messrs. Charlick and Gardner; and so long as the former refuse to recognize the latter as Police Commissioners, the disorganization seems complete.

## POLITICAL STIMULANTS.

After all it may be that Mayor Havemeyer has done us a real service. Gen. Grant remarked a great many years ago that the best way to secure the repeal of a bad law was to enforce it strictly. It was one of those sensible and pithy things that he used to say now and then, in the early days of his public career—a time separated from the present by such a great gulf of disagreeable occurrences that it seems like a dim legendary era, and the aphorisms to which it gave birth sound across the troubled interval like the maxims of saints and sages. The vicious principle of collecting the national revenue on shares had been recognized in the Treasury Department for years, and might have continued in force forever, had not Messrs. Bontwell, Richardson, Sawyer, and Banfield developed from it the astonishing abuses recently uncovered by a Committee of Investigation. Richardson was tolerated until he led to Sanborn. The Custom-house could not be reformed until it startled the country by producing Jayne. Butlerism was nourished until it brought forth Simmons and the stealing of telegrams. Even the discredit of the District Ring would have been incomplete had not the President roused the indignation of the country by renominating Shepherd to the place from which Congress had just deposed him. The truth is, we had grown used to wrongs and scandals of all kinds by such slow degrees that they seldom alarmed us. The abuse of the civil service, the prostitution of Government offices to partisan ends, the wholesale extortion of money for political purposes, the payment of party service with fat places—these vicious practices which lay at the root of the corruption of the times had crept into our system of administration little by little, and we hardly minded them. Perquisites grew into peculation, shrewdness developed into swindling, the smart operator who began by manipulating ballots got to cracking safes and forging bills, and still the honest masses seemed insensible of what was going on around them, and were not ashamed to sit at meat with the thieves and to send them to Congress. The moral sense of the community in short being very much run down, a stimulant seemed necessary to tone it up again. The public has taken several strong doses, and begins we think to feel a little better. The reappointment of Charlick and Gardner has stirred the whole body politic from its lethargy. There is an effort now to throw off impurities from the system. The languid organs resume their normal activity. The sluggish conscience wakes.

For it is not Mayor Havemeyer, as we have several times remarked, who should be held principally responsible for this great wrong. His conduct is denounced in various quarters as an unparalleled outrage, an indecent affront to the people. We cannot see that it is anything of the kind. Mr. Havemeyer is doing just what he was told to do by the politicians who made him Mayor. Is anybody simple enough to imagine that he was nominated for the purpose of giving us an honest and impartial administration? Does any one dream that the Charter was made what it is in order that the city might be well-governed? Does not everybody know that the factions which supported the Mayor always intended to have the Police Board organized for partisan interests, and always desired that the Commissioners should appoint Inspectors of Election on precisely the principle which Charlick and Gardner adopted? The trouble with the Mayor is not that he abused the outside public but that he cheated his partners. They meant from the first that the public should be swindled; when they are cheated themselves it seems to them high time for Mr. Havemeyer to be removed. Against that proposal of course we have not a word to say. But let us not charge to the ignorant and imbecile cunning of one old gentleman an offense which springs originally from our own disregard of duty. There has been no reform yet of the New-York City Government. Connolly and Genet are in exile, and Tweed is in a striped jacket; but the same system of political chicanery, the same roguery at the polls, the same disgraceful misuse of official position which made those worthless rich and powerful, flourish abundantly under their successors. The reform movement of 1871 never fairly took hold of the people. It was arrested by a political faction before it had got headway, and instead of being allowed to sweep through the departments, carrying away the foul accumulations of the Tammany Ring, it was diverted by the new partisan conspirators to turn the wheels of their little machine. Of course we see the old abuses springing up again. The first step is to control the counting of votes. The second will be to rob the treasury.

There is only one remedy, and it is in our own hands. Let us try the novel experiment of electing a Mayor for his fitness, instead of his politics, and we shall be spared the spectacle of Tammany and the Custom-house tearing New-York to pieces, like two dogs quarreling over a bone.

## TAX DODGING.

The tax-dodging policy has for several years been applied to our City finances to a truly colossal extent. Many of our citizens, especially some in positions of high trust, seem actually to believe that a rate of expenditure one-third greater than the entire income can be kept up for an indefinite number of years. We cannot persuade ourselves, however, that the same conduct which would ruin any private citizen will not ruin the City of New-York, if long persisted in. However, our present business is simply to present a few figures, as a matter of current news. These are the respective amounts of the indebted-

ness of the City and County of New-York and the cash in the Treasury, as officially stated for the 30th of June in each of the last three years:

	City Debt.	County Debt.	Cash on hand.
June 30, 1872.....	\$103,853,375	\$6,925,531	\$3,336,855
June 30, 1873.....	109,239,069	5,636,855	3,226,422
June 30, 1874.....	124,035,672	5,636,855	3,226,422

The amount of the City debt, as above given, is exclusive of the stocks and bonds constituting the Sinking Fund. The amount of the cash on hand is the sum total of the balances in the City and County Treasuries and Sinking Fund. The Sinking Fund has increased five million dollars in the two years, but the debt has increased sufficiently to wipe out these five millions and gain eighteen millions more; to which add three and one-half millions decrease in the cash balances, and we find ourselves twenty-six and one-half million dollars worse off than we were on the Fourth of July two years ago.

The amount raised by taxation in 1873 was \$32,036,290. The amount raised in 1874 was \$27,098,798. The amount to be raised in 1875 is \$31,822,391. What an example is here set to the newly-married clerk, who, with a salary of from \$27 to \$32 a week, spends it all and every fortnight runs up a debt which is almost equal to his week's wages. It is not a pleasant topic for Fourth of July consideration, but, for all that, we commend it as one which our citizens cannot too soon or too seriously begin to study.

## THE SMALL BOY'S DAY.

Precisely why the fire-cracker? Why, indeed, the strident Small Boy who, with ventilated apparel, one suspender and unsandaled feet, accompanies the fire-cracker in its orbit of flame? Why pop and fizz to-day more than any other? Why to-day more than any other doth the Small Boy rage and grow violent and touch off everything that has noise in it, from a paper torpedo to a fish-horn, and frighten horses and get asleep on curb-stones, and tear his trousers and burn off his eyebrows, and do all the ten thousand dreadful things for which the Small Boy has been spanked ever since he came in vogue? What relation has the fire-cracker to the Declaration of Independence; or what the howling, horse-frightening Small Boy? The one is a Chinese invention that has no earthly significance beyond spatter and pop—pray Heaven it may not be a symbol of the Republic; the other—the Small Boy—has no relation whatever with the Declaration of Independence: he could not even declare his intentions, and as for independence, he is the most absolutely dependent creature in Nature.

Who started this combination of youth and saltpetre, of vocal haircloth and the limbs of the jumping-jack, of fire, fizzle, and bang? Is it possible that the late John Adams meant this sort of thing when he made his celebrated remark about the ringing of bells, firing of cannon, etc.? Perish the thought! True, Mr. John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts—known to the gentlemen who have occasionally amused themselves and him by running him for Governor by the endearing familiarity of "Jack" Adams—not long ago quoted the remark of his great ancestor as a finisher to the discussion of the celebration of the Centennial; but we doubt if Mr. John Quincy Adams makes a proper use of the bones of his great grandfather. Had the Revolutionary Mr. John Adams not been understood as indulging in a figure of speech, or had it been supposed that he was proposing literally such a celebration of the day as has grown out of it, we might be sure that the members of a family so true to their traditions as the Adamases would have followed out strictly his injunction. But the Adams family, in this generation at least, is much more disposed to write for *The North American Review* than to sit on the curb-stone of the Model Republic and celebrate its natal day with the sudden and unexpected torpedo or the loud and aggressive cracker. It is well enough for Mr. John Quincy Adams to say that the fire-cracker business is the proper and legitimate celebration, but we doubt if any one ever saw an Adams of his line at any age doing it that way.

To be sure, this is the Small Boy's day; and with the Small Boy, noise and happiness, patriotic enthusiasm and Chinese crackers, are synonymous and convertible terms. Custom has given it to him, and we do not by any means object. If he wishes one day in the year—and that the hottest—to sit up all night so as to "usher in the day" with noises, to accompany himself with fire and flame, concussion and reverberation, and to wind up all with weariness, blisters, and colic—why, it's the Fourth of July and a free country—we would not have him interfered with. But one hundred years of fire-crackers ought to be enough of that sort of celebration. After 1875 would it not be well to change the order of things and have the Small Boy instructed as to what the day signifies and what its proper celebration means, instead of letting him loose upon society with his pockets full of explosives, to go snapping and cracking through the streets, a terror and a torment? For seventy or eighty years this was all very well; but the fire-cracker grows upon us. Twenty or thirty years ago it was mitigated somewhat by processions and orations, municipal demonstrations, Cold Water Army celebrations, lemonade, peanuts, and spruce beer; but these have ceased, and we have nothing now but pop, fizz, and bang from morning till night; and a sober-minded person contemplating with less enthusiasm, if not with less confidence, the trials and perils of free government, are beginning to cry, "Give us a rest." Mr. John Adams was a good man, a patriot, and a statesman. But really it does seem to us that he made the mistake of his life—and not only his but everybody else's life—when he set on foot the fire-cracker business.

For making these remarks we beg the Small Boy's pardon. He may be offended by them in the dew and freshness of the dawn, but their force and reasonableness will grow upon him as the day grows older and hotter, and he gets more and more sleepy and blistered, and his fire-crackers more nearly run out, till, when his blessed bedtime comes, he will admit the whole truth of them, and remark to his mother, in the language of the preacher, "All is vanity."

## THE FIREWORKS OF THE HEAVENS.

Around unnumbered homes to-night the lights of our annual celebration will gleam, and over the housetops bright stars of varied hues will flash and go out in the darkness. Momentary as our own fleeting lives are the fireworks of man's invention, that soar into the blue vault and glitter in their brief glory, while the eternal fires of heaven shine on in unchanging majesty. Yet among these celestial fires one has come, so recent, so unsubstantial, so comparatively brief in the period during which it will illuminate our sky, that it seems rather like a brilliant piece of pyrotechny, and not to be reckoned with the orbs of space.

Let us see then how the fireworks of heaven compare with those of earth. In other columns there will be found an extended description of the comet, with a diagram of its movements, the extension of its tail, its place among the constellations. From unknown space somewhere in the north and at a sharp angle to the earth's orbit, it has come rushing down to give one giddy whirl around the sun and then dash back again into the realm of Chaos and old Night. This evening, though we see it so clearly, it is fifty-five million miles away. Of such distances we can form no conception. A cannon ball starting with an initial velocity of 1,500 feet per second, and never slackening its speed, would not traverse this space in six years. On this very day the particles of matter flowing from the comet which are likely to surround the earth within a fortnight, have just started on their backward flight from the sun. Anything on this earth traveling at a similar speed, would complete the distance from New-York to Chicago in seven minutes, and go around the world three times in twenty-four hours.

While every fresh observation adds to the probability that this will be one of the most magnificent comets the world has ever seen, and enlarges the possibility that the earth may pass through some portion of the matter emanating from it, the facts are also accumulating to prove that its effect upon the earth will be almost if not utterly imperceptible. It is now known that after Biela's comet split itself in twain, the earth in November, year before last, passed through one of the dismembered portions. In that case we penetrated the head of the comet, which is unquestionably far more dense than the tail, as is shown both by its obedience to the law of gravity in confining its course around the sun while the tail is flying away from it, and by the evidence afforded by spectrum analysis. Yet in that case the only consequence noted was a shower of meteors that only professional astronomers observed. Of whatever impalpable substance the tail of Coggia's comet may consist, we may rest assured that it cannot have the slightest influence on our health or our fortunes, and we shall never know whether it envelops the earth or not, except from the calculations of astronomy.

## THE NEW POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

President Grant might have made a much worse appointment than that of ex-Gov. Jewell of Connecticut to be Postmaster-General. Mr. Jewell doubtless owes his appointment to his relations with the President, with whom he has been on terms of the most cordial intimacy for many years, rather than to any special qualifications for the place. Still he is a man of good character, undoubted personal integrity, and practical business talent, and will, without doubt, prove an efficient and energetic officer. His political experience in any prominent capacity dates from the year 1868, when he was the Republican candidate for Governor of Connecticut, and was defeated by James E. English. He was elected in 1869, defeated again by Mr. English in 1870, and re-elected in 1871 and 1872. In 1873 he declined a renomination, and a little later was appointed Minister to Russia. He has been discharging the duties of that position at St. Petersburg not quite a year, and the notice of his appointment found him on the eve of a two months' leave of absence. Judging from his private letters, some of which have been published by indiscreet friends, the duties of diplomacy did not suit his active disposition, and the recall from St. Petersburg to a more congenial place and a more active life is no doubt very gratifying to him. The readiness of his acceptance indicates entire willingness to make the exchange; indeed, he made no secret before going abroad of his preference for some Cabinet position for which his business habits and training fitted him, rather than a diplomatic office for which he distrusted his fitness.

If it be true that President Grant contemplates being a candidate for renomination, the effect of this appointment will be to strengthen his chances for success. As a politician Gov. Jewell has been very successful. His opponents have charged that he owed his success entirely to his liberal use of money, but he has done more than use money. He very quickly learned the duties of his position as Governor, and although he never had the fiber or the stuff in him for a reformer, or even a great leader, he possessed in such large degree the qualities that give men popularity that he came very soon after his first entrance into political life to be the strongest man of his party in the State. In the last two campaigns the party has suffered from the want of his personal popularity and shrewd management and has been beaten. In the position of Postmaster-General he will find a larger field for the exercise of his talent as a political manager, and if the President's programme involves a third term he will be of great service in carrying out the details. Aside from that he will make an excellent Department officer and a discreet counselor. Without being a statesman, and indeed without possessing many of the qualifications generally esteemed necessary in an office of the importance of Postmaster-General, he is still so much superior to the average of Presidential appointments that we feel entirely safe to congratulate the President and the country upon it.

The fact that the first appointee, Mr. Hale, only asked to be allowed a few weeks' time to recuperate his health before entering upon the duties of the office, which was refused, taken in connection with the further fact that several weeks must elapse before Minister Jewell can reach Washington, the duties meantime being discharged by a temporary appointee, excites some comment, but it may not have any significance. It is only possible that the President may have taken alarm at the suggestions concerning Mr. Hale's relations with Speaker Blaine, and taken the first opportunity to retreat. Perhaps this feature of the new appointment will develop in the course of a few months.

## THE DINNER HOUR.

Nothing in nature or society appears to have so much specific gravity as the dinner hour. It has sunk gradually down, taking a century or two for its descent, from Eleven o'clock, when it makes its first appearance in history, to Nine o'clock, the hour when extreme fashion dines in London. Queen Elizabeth and her court dined at noon, and we may trust that the present Prime Minister of England was not giving a royal world an erroneous impression of the proper hour for dinner when in "Lothair" he fixes the time as "a late eight." This is the lowest point yet reached. The fashionable hour for dining in Continental cities is much earlier, and thousands of noble families in Germany and France adhere resolutely to their two o'clock dinner. Of course, the vast majority of mankind never dine at all, but eat

what they can get, and at any hour which may be convenient. But there is throughout the well-to-do world, among the people who have enough "goods laid up" to enable them to invite their souls to make of their dinner something more than a mere necessity, an evident tendency to postpone the principal meal of the day to the evening, and as the life of fashionable people becomes every year fuller of varied occupation, to assign a later hour for dining.

This is probably due not so much to the progress of luxury as to the gradual increase of objects of interest to men of wealth. A few generations ago people in society were composed of the classes who neither toiled nor spun, and to whom the advent of the dinner hour was as welcome as it is on ship-board or in the country. An apparently impossible line separated people of fashion from those who did any regular or gainful work. And however agreeable it may appear from the outside, it is probable that mere dawdling, even when enlivened by the pursuit of women, does not fill the day like a regular occupation. There are comparatively few people nowadays who have nothing to do. It is especially unusual to find among those who possess sufficient energy and ambition to assume and hold leading positions in society, any who are not impelled by these same qualities to active participation in the practical work of life. Those who have inherited wealth like to increase it, or at least to employ it rationally. Those who have received from their parents merely a good name are inclined to gild it by their own exertions. And in every conspicuous social circle in the world, except perhaps in the First Society, the Court-Capables of Vienna, you will find among its leaders energetic people who have made their own names and their own fortunes. The tendency of the time being to an active employment of the day, it is not surprising that most people prefer to finish their day's work, whatever it may be, before entering upon so solemn and serious a business as a modern dinner now is. It was one of our great historians who said that the dinner-party was the highest expression of civilization; and when we consider the number of trades, arts, and sciences which concur to produce the daily result, the dresses, the plate, the furniture, the flowers, the viands, and the wines which are to be seen in the modern formal dinner, it will be hard to contest the apothegm.

But there are some drawbacks inseparably connected from this custom of late dining. Two of the most evident are the gradual abolition through this means of informal evening visits, and the startling decadence of the English Drama. In London the higher classes have almost ceased to frequent the theater. It is simply impossible to dine at eight and go to a play the same evening, and therefore the people who habitually dine at eight have ceased to go to the theater. The middle classes naturally follow the example of their betters and stay away; in fact one attraction of places of amusement is taken away from the gentlefolks cease to go. The prices of admission are too high for the masses. The consequence is that the theaters are filled every night with a transient crowd, composed chiefly of the population of hotels. The same causes are operating powerfully against theaters in New-York, though in a less degree, as here the dinner-hour is still somewhat earlier, and the hotel population is not so much inferior to the educated people of the city. The opera is less affected by the stage; for while it remains fashionable, people are willing to dine a little earlier and more simply. And yet, even in New-York, the first act of an opera is always sung to a full gallery and empty boxes. The effect of late dining upon dramatic art is undeniable, and is continually increasing.

The woes of to-day are not all pyrotechnic. There will be other explosions—oratorical catastrophes which unfortunately never bring distress upon the men who are responsible for them. The mere distant contemplation of these rhetorical compounds of fulminates and patriotism is enough to frighten the most ardent lover of his country. We have a history, to be sure, and ought to revere it, but when it is served up in the same quantities and the same style year after year, the happy hearer longs to quote the Scriptural injunction against "vain repetitions." Every year we are called upon to view that historic assemblage, made familiar in every print-shop in the land, in which several scores of highly respectable gentlemen crossed their legs and displayed their highly respectable shins, while a Committee to whom the artist was no less generous in the matter of shins reported the Declaration of Independence; the battles of Lexington and Monmouth and Saratoga were vigorously fought over our sweltering and helpless bodies; Benedict Arnold is caught and roasted for the millionth time, and every village orator savagely stirs up the coals; we are dragged on our perspiring way from Bunker Hill to the Chesapeake, and get frost-bitten at Valley Forge and pocket Cornwallis at Yorktown with equal indifference and resignation; and all in all, the Fourth of July orator becomes such a sore indiction that if he would die to the sound of his own music, this taking of would become him more than all the rest of his burlesques. There are serious questions of the day which one would think might challenge the attention of speakers and hearers everywhere. It is well to perpetuate the memory of those who gave us our freedom, but might it not be well occasionally to inquire whether we have as much as they gave us? The rule of corrupt and corruptible men in our politics, the domination of party, the degradation of the United States Senate, once a pure and lofty body, the seeming movement of the base breed of politicians for a third term, the oppression of State Governments by the Federal, the abandonment of the attempt to purify our Civil Service, the indifference of the people to breaches of trust in public and corporate officers—these and other things as discountenancing mark the close of our first century of national life. Are they not worth thinking about?

A curious example of the result of devotion to one idea is to be seen in an article on popular education in that church magazine called *St. Chrysostom's*. The writer of the same naturally argues violently in favor of denominational schools, going so far as to ask the State to endow them. The prickly and unhappy path that this would make to a No Throughfare in education is not visible to this funny one. His argument against secular instruction is a funny one. "The wits may be sharpened," he says, "by the ordinary common school studies, but that which is really so much the worse as teaching a would-be criminal how to avoid the coarseness and clumsiness of a perfectly illiterate offender. Modern educators and cleverly-discovered poisons are the secrets of educated murderers." Religious education is not to be advanced by reasoning like this.

A newspaper paragraph states that the Emperor of China has commanded a collection to be made of Chinese poetry—a complete anthology running back to